

## San Luis Obispo County Integrated Proposal Program Preferences

The San Luis Obispo County Integrated Proposal was developed with the Program Preferences in mind. The eight Program Preferences are listed below in Table 11-1 and were given special attention by San Luis Obispo stakeholders, as they relate to integrated water management objectives defined in the California Water Code and implementing legislation of the State. With a high degree of certainty, the multi-beneficial strategies of the San Luis Obispo County Integrated Proposal will achieve the results desired by the goals of the State-defined Program Preferences. All project strategies were developed through the San Luis Obispo IRWM planning process in an attempt to integrate the needs of stakeholders in the watershed and to address applicable Program Preferences outlined by the State.

The discussion below describes the three projects that make up the Proposal and which Program Preferences they meet, demonstrates how the Proposal assists in meeting the Program Preferences, documents the certainty that the Proposal will meet the Program Preferences, and describes the breadth and magnitude to which the Program Preferences will be met.

**Table 11-1. Program Preferences**

Program Preferences	
1)	Include regional projects or programs
2)	Effectively integrate water management programs and projects within a hydrologic region identified in the California Water Plan; the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) region or subdivision; or other region or sub-region specifically identified by DWR
3)	Effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions
4)	Contribute to attainment of one or more of the objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program ( <a href="http://calwater.ca.gov/calfed/objectives/index.html">http://calwater.ca.gov/calfed/objectives/index.html</a> )
5)	Address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the region
6)	Effectively integrate water management with land use planning
7)	For eligible SWFM funding, projects which: a) are not receiving State funding for flood control or flood prevention projects pursuant to PRC §5096.824 or §75034 or b) provide multiple benefits, including, but not limited to, water quality improvements, ecosystem benefits, reduction of instream erosion and sedimentation, and groundwater recharge
8)	Address Statewide priorities (Table 1 of the guidelines establishes the specific Statewide Priorities for the IRWM Grant Program.)

### **1. Include regional projects or programs**

All three projects in the proposal are regional projects in that they don't benefit or involve just one entity (see maps in 5. below) and they were identified as top priorities for the Region in the Region's IRWM Plan. Therefore, when the projects are implemented, the program preference will be met with certainty. The breadth and magnitude to which the program preference will be met is discussed for each project below.

**2007 San Luis Obispo County IRWM Plan Priority Projects\***

	Project	Score	Readiness
<b>Water Quality</b>	Los Osos Community Wastewater Project	<b>52.8</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Water Supply</b>	Nipomo CSD Supplemental Water Project	<b>34.2</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Flood Management</b>	Flood Control Zone 1/1A Waterway Management Program	<b>44.8</b>	<b>2011</b>

\*2007 San Luis Obispo County IRWM Plan Section F, Page 4 Modified

The ***Los Osos Community Wastewater Project*** will not only provide wastewater collection and treatment services to homeowners in the prohibition zone, it will improve the groundwater quality and conditions for all Los Osos Valley Groundwater Basin users, which include three water purveyors, individual property owners, ecosystems and agriculture. A DNA study by Dr. Chris Kitts et al. documented high levels of human fecal coliform in the groundwater seeps adjacent to the bay, degrading the Morro Bay Estuary (<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Assets/PW/LOWWP/document+library/Past+Project+Documents+4-15-09.pdf>, Page 4). The surfacing wastewater in the Morro Bay National Estuary, with elevated levels of bacteria, presents a potential health hazard for recreation and economic livelihood. Shellfish harvesting areas are restricted, as well as water contact recreation such as swimming, kayaking, and small boat sailing. The project is being implemented by a regional agency, San Luis Obispo County, and includes ecosystem and groundwater monitoring to ensure the project improves water quality for all over time.

The ***Flood Control Zone 1/1A Waterway Management Program, 1st Year Vegetation and Sediment Management Project*** includes continuing design, permitting and construction of the project to provide flood protection from the 5 year event. The existing channel capacity is severely reduced due to dense vegetation and accumulated sediment and can only contain the 2.8 year flood event. This project would improve the flow characteristics of the channel by reducing channel roughness through vegetation thinning and removal enhance geomorphic function by removing accumulated sediment, establishing a primary low-flow channel, and creating secondary overflow channels to improve flood conveyance and sediment transport. Maintenance of a primary low-flow channel, enforced by the presence of a stable riparian corridor, will improve sediment transport conditions throughout the flood control reach which will reduce the need for future maintenance/dredging and provide continued flood protection for the disadvantaged community of Oceano and the highly productive agricultural areas of Cienega Valley. Efforts are led by a regional agency, San Luis Obispo County, and the County decision-making is guided by the Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee which is made up of agriculturalists and other landowners within the zone, and has been meeting regularly since June 2001.

The ***Nipomo Waterline Intertie Project*** will improve water supply directly for people served by the four water purveyors in the Nipomo area, and improve the overall balance of water supply and demand for the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin in the Nipomo area which is also utilized by individual property owners and agriculture. Water for the project is being supplied under the provisions of an MOU between the Nipomo Community Services District (CSD) and the City of Santa Maria in the Santa Barbara County IRWM Region, and San Luis Obispo County is coordinating with Nipomo CSD to form the Assessment District to fund the project. The Nipomo CSD is implementing the project.

**2. Effectively integrate water management programs and projects within a hydrologic region identified in the California Water Plan; the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) region or subdivision; or other region or sub-region specifically identified by DWR**

The San Luis Obispo County Region and the three projects in this proposal are located in the Central Coast hydrologic region identified in the California Water Plan and the Central Coast Region of the Water Quality Control Board. Certainty of meeting this Program Preference is high since the integration of all the strategies in the Proposal

was thoroughly developed and established through the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Plan (IRWMP). The IRWMP programs serve to further integrate the projects through a common goal with many objectives. As a result, the projects are linked both in function and goal. Each project meets a variety of goals and objectives, and provides multiple benefits to the integrated management of the region. The breadth and magnitude to which the program preference will be met is discussed for each project below.

### ***Regional Approach to Integrating Water Management Programs and Projects***

The Region's IRWM planning effort focused on developing multi-beneficial management strategies to address the many needs and water resources interests in the region. Borne out of the planning process was an IRWMP that integrates, on a regional basis, five main areas of water management: Water Quality, Water Supply; Ecosystem Preservation and Restoration, Groundwater Monitoring and Management, and Flood Management.

Through the IRWM planning process, projects were prioritized based on their ability to meet multiple San Luis Obispo IRWMP objectives. This San Luis Obispo County Integrated Proposal includes three projects that meet the multi-objective water management programs and are ready for implementation.

The ***Los Osos Community Wastewater Project*** was identified as a wastewater strategy in Section D1.19 Water and Wastewater Treatment in the IRWMP and, while water quality is a primary purpose, several benefits exist in addition to the development of a community wastewater system. Ecosystem and wetlands benefits, especially to the Morro Bay National Estuary; groundwater conflict resolution, recharge and quality benefits; water supply reliability; and protection against seawater intrusion are among its other many benefits. The project will help ensure compliance with TMDLs, stormwater programs and waste discharge requirements.

The ***Flood Control Zone 1/1A Waterway Management Program*** was identified as a flood management strategy in Section D1.4 Flood Management of the San Luis IRWMP. The Zone 1/1A Waterway Management Program is a comprehensive set of actions designed to increase the capacity of the leveed lower three miles of Arroyo Grande Creek while simultaneously enhancing water quality and sensitive species habitat within the managed channel. Actions include raising the height of the existing levees, managing in-channel vegetation to enhance habitat, reducing sediment deposition within the channel, and implementing specific sediment removal projects.

The ***Nipomo Waterline Intertie Project*** was identified as a water transfers strategy in Section D1.20 Water Transfers of the San Luis IRWMP. The Nipomo Waterline Intertie Project will protect and improve the Nipomo area of the Santa Maria groundwater basin, will deliver high quality drinking water, implement an inter-agency project, protect the groundwater resources for the region, and will help alleviate the groundwater conflicts in the region.

### ***3. Effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions***

Two of the three projects in the proposal are being implemented to help resolve significant water-related conflicts within and between regions. The certainty with which this program preference will be addressed is high since the projects are included in Judgments for the groundwater basins to which the County and water purveyors implementing the projects are parties. The breadth and magnitude to which the program preference will be met are discussed for each project below.

The ***Los Osos Community Wastewater Project*** will be implemented primarily to address an order by the Central Coast RWQCB. Since the early 1980's, nitrate contamination has been a concern to many, including the RWQCB and the Department of Health Services. In 1995, significant increases in nitrate concentrations over time were found in both the upper and lower basins and documented by RWQCB nitrate contour maps. Concerns about health risks prompted RWQCB to produce regulatory orders requiring mitigation of the contamination in 1983. These orders prohibited septic tanks with leach fields or seepage pits within a community area now known as the *Prohibition Zone*. In 1988, the RWQCB imposed a building moratorium within this *Prohibition Zone*, drastically affecting community economy and lifestyle. This building moratorium has been in continuous effect since and the RWQCB ordered the community to solve the problem or face daily fines of \$10,000.

Additionally, the project is being implemented in a groundwater basin that has been through a legal process to address water rights that resulted in an Interlocutory Stipulated Judgment (ISJ). The County is a signatory to the ISJ that, in Article II. I, includes "consideration of Purveyor contributions toward funding of County-executed programs and projects for recharging aquifers, preventing or mitigating saltwater intrusion and managing groundwater resources to the extent that they are related to the County's construction and operation of the community wastewater collection and treatment system pursuant to AB 2701" as a component of a Basin Management Plan to be developed by all signatories to the ISJ. The groundwater basin has been experiencing seawater intrusion at an average horizontal rate of intrusion of 700 feet per year based on the 250 mg/l isochlor between 2005 and 2010 and

improving the water quality in the upper aquifer by implementing the project will be a key step in restoring the overall balance of water extractions from the Basin.

The *Nipomo Waterline Intertie Project* is being implemented in the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin which has been through a legal process to address water rights that resulted in a Stipulated Judgment. The Stipulation divides the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin into three management areas known as the Santa Maria Valley Management Area (Southern portion of the Groundwater Basin) the Nipomo Mesa Management Area (the NMMA) (the center portion of the Groundwater Basin) and the Northern Cities Management Area (the northern portion of the Groundwater Basin).

Pursuant to the Stipulation, Woodlands Mutual Water Company (WMWC), Golden State Water Company (GSWC) and Rural Water Company (RWC) agreed to participate in the Nipomo Waterline Intertie Project that is the subject of a 2004 MOU between the City of Santa Maria and the Nipomo CSD for 2,500 AFY of water. As outlined in the Stipulation, the 2,500 AF is to be divided up as follows:

NCS	66.68% or 1,669 AFY
WMWC	16.66% or 415 AFY
GSWC	8.33% or 208 AFY
RWC	8.33% or 208 AFY

After entering into the 2005 Stipulation, several additional studies have been prepared by NCS in order to further evaluate alternatives to the Waterline Intertie Project, including:

1. The Preliminary Engineering Memorandum, Boyle Engineering, November, 2006.
2. Evaluation of Supplemental Water Alternatives – Technical Memorandum No. 1, Boyle Engineering, June 2007.
3. Evaluation of Desalinization as a Source of Supplemental Water - Technical Memorandum No. 2, Boyle Engineering, September 28, 2007.
4. Evaluation of Supplemental Water Alternatives - Technical Memorandum No. 3, Boyle Engineering, November 30, 2007.

These memoranda confirmed that the Waterline Intertie Project is the most feasible project to provide alternative water sources within the Nipomo Mesa Management Area.

#### **4. Contribute to attainment of one or more of the objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program**

CALFED's Water Supply Reliability Program is achieved through five program elements: Conveyance, Storage, Environmental Water Account, Water Use Efficiency and Water Transfers. Together, they comprise CALFED's Water Supply Reliability Program objective. Through partnerships with local and regional agencies, these programs seek to increase water supplies, ensure efficient use of water resources and add flexibility to California's water system. Two of the three projects in the proposal contribute to the attainment of this CALFED Bay-Delta Program objective with certainty by the implementation of **water use efficiency** and **water transfer** components of the projects. The breadth and magnitude to which the program preference will be met are discussed for each project below.

As a condition of implementing the *Los Osos Community Wastewater Project*, the Coastal Commission permit requires the County to develop a Basin Recycled Water Management Plan that includes a **Water Conservation Component** (Coastal 5b of the Permit Conditions). This condition requires the County to develop a program that includes a required limit for indoor water use of no more than 50 gallons per person per day on average. Further the condition states:

“The program shall be designed to help Basin residents to reduce their potable water use as much as possible through measures including but not limited to retrofit and installation of low water use fixtures, and grey water systems. The Program shall include enforceable mechanisms designed to achieve its identified goals, including the 50 gallons per person per day target, and shall include provisions for use of the \$5 million committed by the Permittee to initiate water conservation measures pursuant to the Basin

Plan as soon as possible following COP approval. The Permittee shall coordinate with water purveyors to the maximum extent feasible to integrate this conservation program with purveyor implemented outdoor water use reduction measures.”

The source of supply for the *Nipomo Waterline Intertie Project* is a **water transfer** from the City of Santa Maria per the provisions of a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Nipomo CSD.

## **5. Address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the region**

Two of the three projects in the proposal are being implemented to help address critical water supply and/or quality needs of disadvantaged communities (see maps below). The third project addresses flood control needs for a disadvantaged community rather than water supply or quality needs. Certainty of meeting this Program Preference is high since the projects’ purposes are to address water supply and quality, and the projects serve communities that are disadvantaged, as discussed below. Further, the projects are included in Judgments for the groundwater basins to which the County and water purveyors implementing the projects are parties. The breadth and magnitude to which the program preference will be met are also discussed for each project below.

The general approach to identifying DACs in the sub-regions served by the projects was to download the 2000 Median Household Income (MHI) Block Group Maps from the Census Bureau websites. 2000 Census Data for the State of California was also downloaded from the Census Bureau website to establish the statewide MHI and determine whether Block Groups met the definition for a DAC (MHI of 80% or less of the statewide MHI). Data from the 2000 Census shows Statewide MHI at \$47,493. To qualify as a DAC, the Block Group would need to have an MHI of **\$37,994 or less** ( $80\% * \$47,493 = \$37,994$ ). Each of the projects serve Block Groups that meet the DAC criteria. The Block Group maps for Los Osos and Nipomo are included below.

The critical water quality and supply needs of the DAC in **Los Osos (DAC Block Group MHI = \$32,188)** relate to the prevalence of nitrate contamination and seawater intrusion in their only source of water supply – the Los Osos Groundwater Basin (Basin). The implementation of the Los Osos Community Wastewater Project **benefits** the DAC overlying the Basin by eliminating the main source of nitrate contamination into the Basin and providing tertiary treated wastewater to sites for reuse in accordance with Coastal Development Permit Condition 97:

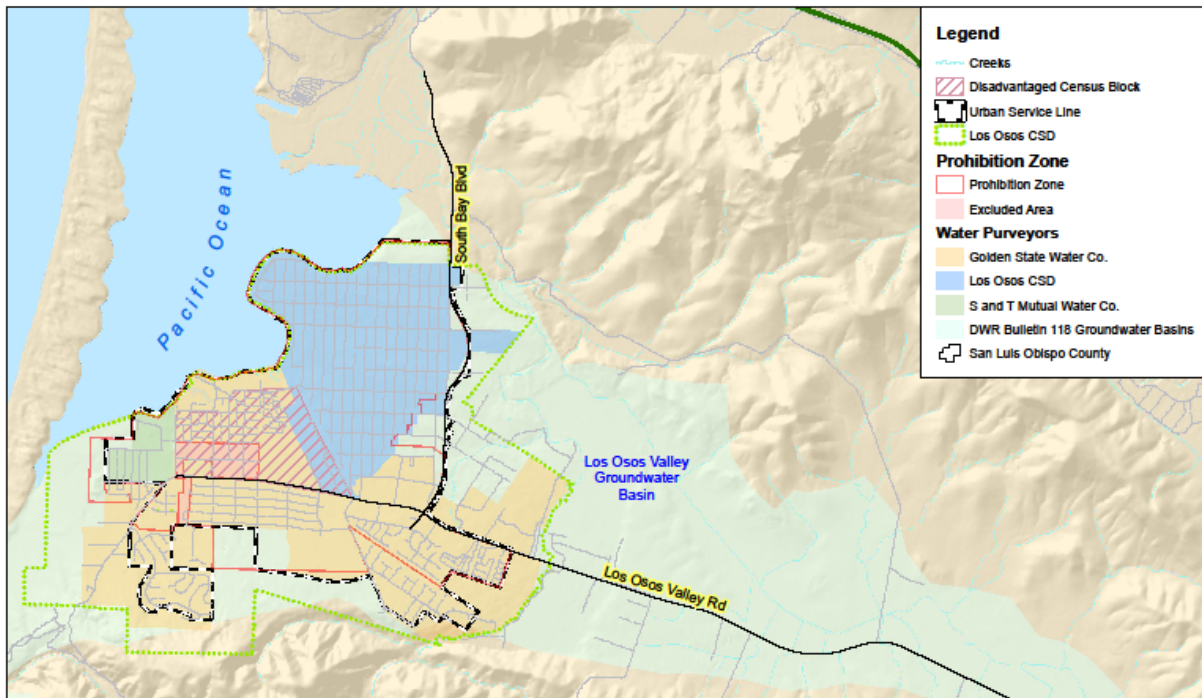
“Total agricultural re-use shall not be less than 10% of the total treated effluent. Disposal shall be prioritized to reduce seawater intrusion and return/retain water to/in the Los Osos groundwater basin. Highest priority shall be given to replacing potable water uses with tertiary treated effluent consistent with Water Code Section 13550.”

Concerns about health risks prompted RWQCB to produce regulatory orders requiring mitigation of the contamination in 1983. These orders prohibited septic tanks with leach fields or seepage pits within a community area now known as the *Prohibition Zone*. In 1988, the RWQCB imposed a building moratorium within this *Prohibition Zone*, drastically affecting community economy and lifestyle. This building moratorium has been in continuous effect since and the RWQCB ordered the community to solve the problem or face daily fines of \$10,000.

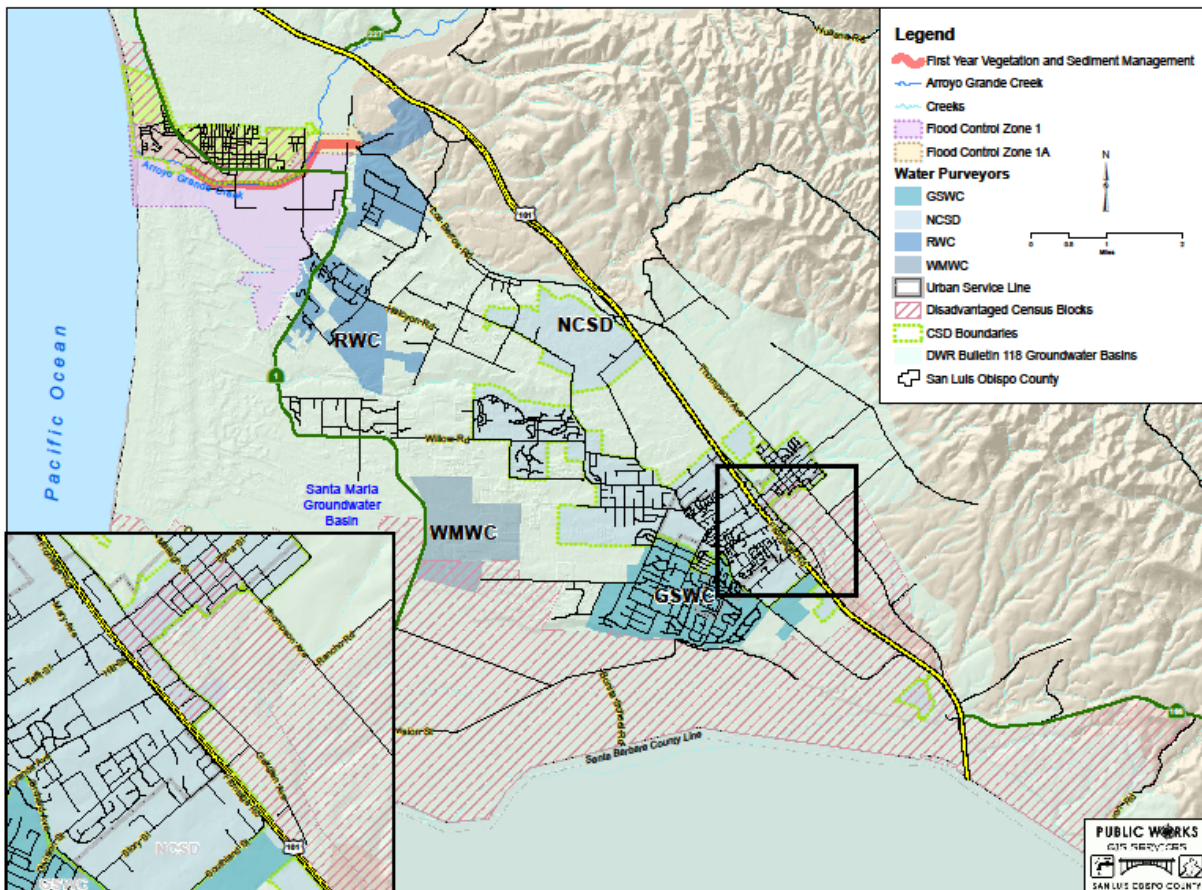
The critical water supply needs of the DAC in **Nipomo (DAC Block Group MHI = \$28,403 - \$31,875)** relates to the imbalance of available supply and demand in that area of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin, referred to as the Nipomo Mesa Management Area (NMMA), Nipomo Mesa Water Conservation Area and/or Nipomo Hydrologic sub-basin in various studies and reports (NMMA in this discussion), as evidenced by significant depressions in the water levels which threaten to degrade water quality. The implementation of the Nipomo Waterline Intertie Project benefits the DAC within the NMMA by providing water from another source to use in conjunction with groundwater supplies for the DAC and alleviate demand on the groundwater basin.



San Luis Obispo County Integrated Proposal Regional Map - Los Osos



San Luis Obispo County Integrated Proposal Regional Map - Oceano and Nipomo



## 6. Effectively integrate water management with land use planning

Two of the three projects in the proposal, the Los Osos Wastewater Project and the Nipomo Waterline Intertie Project, effectively integrate water management with land use planning. The certainty with which this program preference will be addressed is high since the projects are included in Judgments for the groundwater basins to which the County (the land use authority) and water purveyors implementing the projects are parties. The breadth and magnitude to which the program preference will be met are further discussed for each project below.

The County is the land use authority for the sub-regions served by the two projects; however water purveyors and individual landowners utilize the water supply. The only current sources of supply for the two sub-regions are their respective groundwater basins, whose use is largely unregulated. As a way to coordinate land use and water management issues in these sub-regions, the County's General Plan contains a Resource Management System that utilizes water management plans prepared by the water purveyors and source water assessments to analyze the ability of the supply to meet demand. Based on this analysis and the recommended level of severity for the sub-region's supply, the County Board of Supervisors considers what land use management actions to implement in conjunction with water purveyor efforts to manage water supplies. Table F of the County's Resource Management System describes the severity levels as follows:

Table F RESOURCE DEFICIENCY CRITERIA FOR LEVELS OF SEVERITY		
Level I	Level II	Level III
Projected consumption estimated to exceed dependable supply within 9 years	7 year lead time to develop supplementary water for delivery to users	Resource is being used at or beyond its estimated dependable supply or will deplete dependable supply before new supplies can be developed

Since a Level of Severity III was certified by the County Board of Supervisors in 2007 for the Los Osos Groundwater Basin, two County-implemented water conservation ordinances have been put into effect utilizing the County's land use authority. Title 8 of County Code requires retrofitting of structures upon sale. Title 19 requires new development to retrofit water fixtures in existing buildings in order to save twice the water that the new development will use. The Resource Management System generates annual reports on the status of water management efforts in the sub-region for the Board's consideration to see if the land use actions implemented are still appropriate. The 2009 Annual Summary Report for the Resource Management System ([http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Assets/PL/pdfs/2009\\_RMS.pdf](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Assets/PL/pdfs/2009_RMS.pdf), Page 4-13) recognizes that "The Los Osos Wastewater Project will include several actions that benefit the water supply and be complementary to other basin management actions." The County is also a signatory to the Interlocutory Stipulated Judgment for the Los Osos Groundwater Basin, which includes provisions that integrate the Los Osos Wastewater Project with the requirement to develop a Basin Management Plan and further facilitates integration of water management and land use planning in conjunction with the County's implementation of the project.

A Level of Severity III was certified by the County Board of Supervisors in 2007 for the Nipomo area of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin. The 2009 Annual Summary Report for the Resource Management System ([http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Assets/PL/pdfs/2009\\_RMS.pdf](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Assets/PL/pdfs/2009_RMS.pdf), Page 2-15) acknowledges the waterline intertie project ("In addition, the Nipomo Community Services District has taken the lead to bring new water resources to the NMWCA [Nipomo Mesa Water Conservation Area]. The District will construct a pipeline from Santa Maria to Nipomo. The pipeline will deliver approximately 2,500 acre feet of water per year . . .") and recommends the following:

- a. Continue the limitation on the number of dwelling units for the Nipomo Mesa area for the year 2008-09 through the County's Growth Management Ordinance to 1.8% of the number of units existing in the area as of June 30, 2008.
- b. At this time, a building moratorium is not considered an appropriate action for the Nipomo Mesa area. The Board adopted water conservation measures in the NMWCA in calendar year 2008 and will

- review the status of the programs in calendar year 2010. The Board may direct changes to the program once that review is completed in 2010.
- c. Continue to implement water conservation measures adopted by the Board in 2008. Report back on the status of the programs in calendar year 2010.
  - d. New non-agricultural development in the NMWCA shall not result in a net increase in water use unless a supplemental water fee is in place.
  - e. Expand discussions with water purveyors in the NMWCA and include water rate structure, supplemental water supplies and expansion of small community water systems.

The County is also a stipulating party to the Stipulated Judgment for the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin, which includes provisions that integrate the Nipomo Waterline Intertie Project with the stipulation to cooperatively manage the Basin and further facilitates integration of water management and land use planning in conjunction with the Nipomo CSD's implementation of the project.

**7. For eligible SWFM funding, projects which: a) are not receiving State funding for flood control or flood prevention projects pursuant to PRC §5096.824 or §75034 or b) provide multiple benefits, including, but not limited to, water quality improvements, ecosystem benefits, reduction of instream erosion and sedimentation, and groundwater recharge**

While the proposal is being submitted for a grant funded by Proposition 84 (The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coast Protection Bond Act of 2006), Chapter 2, rather than the Stormwater Flood Management (SWFM) grants funded by Proposition 1E (The Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006), it does contain a project that could be submitted in a proposal for grants funded by Proposition 1E. The **Flood Control Zone 1/1A Waterway Management Program** is a comprehensive set of actions designed to increase the capacity of the leveed lower three miles of Arroyo Grande Creek to protect homeowners and agricultural property while simultaneously enhancing water quality and sensitive species habitat within the managed channel. Actions over time include raising the height of the existing levees, managing in-channel vegetation to enhance habitat, reducing sediment deposition within the channel, and implementing specific sediment removal projects.

**8. Address Statewide priorities**

**Drought Preparedness**

Two of the three projects in this proposal, the Los Osos Wastewater Project and the Nipomo Waterline Intertie Project, effectively address long-term drought preparedness by contributing to sustainable water supply and reliability during water shortages. **The certainty with which this priority will be addressed (as with any Statewide priority addressed by the two projects) is high** since the projects are included in Judgments for the groundwater basins to which the County and water purveyors implementing the projects are parties. Additionally, the Los Osos Wastewater Project Coastal Development Permit has relevant conditions (described below). The breadth and magnitude to which the Drought Preparedness Statewide priority will be met are further discussed for each project below.

Note: In accordance with the Proposition 84 guidelines for meeting the Drought Preparedness priority, neither project includes drought emergency response actions, such as trucking of water or lowering well intakes. Also, the two projects in the proposal achieve one or more of the following:

- Promote water conservation, conjunctive use, reuse and recycling
- Improve landscape and agricultural irrigation efficiencies
- Achieve long term reduction of water use
- Efficient groundwater basin management
- Establish system interties

The **Los Osos Wastewater Project** consists of constructing a wastewater treatment system for Los Osos, in cooperation with the community water purveyors, to solve the high-level water resource shortage and groundwater pollution problem, in an environmentally sustainable and cost effective manner, by implementing Title 22 unrestricted **reuse** at project start-up (see Coastal Development Permit Conditions 97 and Coastal 5a). **Improved irrigation efficiencies and long-term reduction of water use** will be achieved by implementation of Coastal Development Permit Condition 5b, which requires the County to develop a Basin Recycled Water Management Plan



that includes a Water Conservation Component. This condition requires the County to develop a program that includes a required limit for indoor water use of no more than 50 gallons per person per day on average. Further the condition states:

“The program shall be designed to help Basin residents to reduce their potable water use as much as possible through measures including but not limited to retrofit and installation of low water use fixtures, and grey water systems. The Program shall include enforceable mechanisms designed to achieve its identified goals, including the 50 gallons per person per day target, and shall include provisions for use of the \$5 million committed by the Permittee to initiate water conservation measures pursuant to the Basin Plan as soon as possible following COP approval. The Permittee shall coordinate with water purveyors to the maximum extent feasible to integrate this conservation program with purveyor implemented outdoor water use reduction measures.”

The Los Osos Wastewater Project is being implemented in a groundwater basin that has been through a legal process to address water rights that resulted in an Interlocutory Stipulated Judgment (ISJ). The County is a signatory to the ISJ that, in Article II. I, includes “consideration of Purveyor contributions toward funding of County-executed programs and projects for recharging aquifers, preventing or mitigating saltwater intrusion and managing groundwater resources to the extent that they are related to the County's construction and operation of the community wastewater collection and treatment system pursuant to AB 2701” as **a component of a Basin Management Plan** to be developed by all signatories to the ISJ. Additionally, Article VI of the ISJ requires the water purveyors to develop an “**interconnection plan**”.

The *Nipomo Waterline Intertie Project* consists of constructing an **intertie** from the City of Santa Maria water system to the Nipomo CSD water system to deliver 3,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) to four water purveyors in the Nipomo area. The project will utilize regional water supplies to slow the depletion of groundwater, reduce the potential for sea water intrusion, be consistent with the Stipulated Judgment for the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin, and increase the reliability of water supply by providing a diversity of water sources. The source of supply for the project is a blend of surface and groundwater, which can be used **conjunctively** with the existing groundwater supply in the Nipomo area. This project, in conjunction with individual water conservation and system intertie efforts by the water purveyors, and compliance with the Stipulated Judgment for the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin, will help to ensure the **groundwater basin is efficiently managed** over time.

### **Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently**

#### **Climate Change Response Actions**

The *Los Osos Wastewater Project* effectively addresses both of these statewide priorities and the *Nipomo Waterline Intertie Project* addresses the Climate Change Response Actions priority. The certainty with which these priorities will be addressed is high since the projects are included in Judgments for the groundwater basins to which the County and water purveyors implementing the projects are parties. Additionally, the Los Osos Wastewater Project Coastal Development Permit has several relevant conditions.

In accordance with the Proposition 84 guidelines for meeting the Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently and Climate Change Response Actions priorities, the Los Osos Wastewater Project “implement(s) water use efficiency, water conservation, recycling and reuse to help meet future water demands, increase water supply reliability and adapt to climate change” and “use and reuse water more efficiently” as described above under Drought Preparedness. Similarly, in accordance with the Proposition 84 guidelines for meeting the Climate Change Response Actions priority, the Nipomo Waterline Intertie Project “advance(s) and expand(s) conjunctive management of multiple water supply sources” as described as described above under Drought Preparedness.

### **Expand Environmental Stewardship**

Condition Coastal 5 of the Coastal Development Permit for the *Los Osos Wastewater Project* requires the County to develop a Basin Recycled Water Management Plan which is to include a baseline physical and ecological assessment of ground and surface water and related resources and a monitoring program to ensure that area resources are steadily improving over time with the implementation of the project.

### **Expand Environmental Stewardship**

#### **Practice Integrated Flood Management**

The *Flood Control Zone 1/1A Waterway Management Program, 1st Year Vegetation and Sediment Management Project* includes continuing design, permitting and construction of the project to provide flood protection from the 5

year event. The existing channel capacity is severely reduced due to dense vegetation and accumulated sediment and can only contain the 2.8 year flood event. This project would improve the flow characteristics of the channel by reducing channel roughness through vegetation thinning and removal enhance geomorphic function by removing accumulated sediment, establishing a primary low-flow channel, and creating secondary overflow channels to improve flood conveyance and sediment transport. Maintenance of a primary low-flow channel, enforced by the presence of a stable riparian corridor, will improve sediment transport conditions throughout the flood control reach which will reduce the need for future maintenance/dredging and provide continued flood protection for the disadvantaged community of Oceano and the highly productive agricultural areas of Cienega Valley. This project practices, promotes, improves, and expands environmental stewardship to protect and enhance the environment with certainty by improving instream functions and sustaining flood management ecosystems and promotes and practices integrated flood management to provide multiple benefits including:

- Better emergency preparedness and response
- Improved flood protection
- More sustainable flood and water management systems
- Enhanced floodplain ecosystems

#### **Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality**

The *Los Osos Wastewater Project* consists of constructing a wastewater treatment system for Los Osos, in cooperation with the community water purveyors, to solve the high-level water resource shortage and groundwater pollution problem, in an environmentally sustainable and cost effective manner, by implementing Title 22 unrestricted reuse at project start-up (see Coastal Development Permit Conditions 97 and Coastal 5). This project will help to protect and restore surface water and groundwater quality to safeguard public and environmental health and secure water supplies for beneficial uses.

#### **Improve Tribal Water and Natural Resources**

The proposal does not include projects to develop a program for Tribal consultation, collaboration, and access to funding for water programs and projects to better sustain Tribal water and natural resources. There are no Tribal reservations in the Region, however the project proponents have consulted with the Native American Heritage Commission via the CEQA process and addressed their concerns in the project EIRs.

#### **Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits**

All three of the projects in the proposal have multiple benefits (see the discussion in 2. above) and consider affected disadvantaged communities (DACs) and vulnerable populations (see the discussion in 5. above). The *Nipomo Waterline Intertie Project* addresses safe drinking water for DACs and the *Los Osos Wastewater Project* addresses wastewater treatment needs of DACs.